

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims shall replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) An actuator comprising:
a latching lever pivotable between at least a first position and a second position, said lever comprising a lever bearing surface;
a stationary bearing surface; and
a solenoid comprising a plunger moveable between an extended position and a retracted position, wherein when said lever is disposed in said first position and said plunger is in said extended position said plunger is disposed between said lever bearing surface and said stationary bearing surface thereby blocking said lever from pivoting to said second position, and when said plunger is in said retracted position said lever is not blocked from pivoting between said first position and said second position.
2. (Currently Amended) The actuator of claim 1 wherein at least one of said lever bearing surface and said stationary bearing surface comprises a roller.
3. (Original) The actuator of claim 1 wherein said lever is biased toward one of said first position and second position.
4. (Original) The actuator of claim 3 wherein said lever is biased toward said first position by a torsion spring.
5. (Original) The actuator of claim 1 wherein said plunger is biased toward one of said extended position and said retracted position when said solenoid is in an un-energized state.
6. (Cancelled) The actuator of claim 5 wherein said plunger is biased toward said retracted position by a compression spring when said solenoid is in said un-energized state.

7. (Original) The actuator of claim 1 further comprising a mechanical switch that is closed when said lever is in one of said first position and said second position.

8. (Original) The actuator of claim 1 wherein said plunger comprises a wedge-shaped portion.

9. (Original) An actuator comprising:

a base plate;

a lever pivotally disposed on said base plate, said lever comprising a lever roller, and said lever being pivotable between a first position and a second position;

a stationary roller disposed on said base plate;

a solenoid comprising a plunger moveable between an extended position and a retracted position, wherein said plunger is disposed between said lever roller and said stationary roller when said plunger is in said extended position and said lever is in said first position, thereby preventing said lever from pivoting to said second position.

10. (Original) The actuator according to claim 9 further comprising a torsion spring biasing said lever toward said first position.

11. (Cancelled) The actuator according to claim 9 further comprising a compression spring biasing said plunger toward said retracted position when said solenoid is in an un-energized state.

12. (Original) The actuator according to claim 9 further comprising a mechanical switch that is closed when said lever is in said second position.

13. (Original) The actuator according to claim 9 wherein said plunger comprises a wedge-shaped portion.

14-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) An actuator comprising:

a latching lever pivotable between at least a first position and a second position, said lever comprising a lever bearing surface;
a stationary bearing surface; and
a solenoid comprising a plunger moveable between an extended position and a retracted position, wherein when said lever is disposed in said first position and said plunger is in said extended position said plunger is compressed between said lever bearing surface and said stationary bearing surface, thereby blocking said lever from pivoting to said second position, and when said plunger is in said retracted position said lever is not blocked from pivoting between said first position and said second position.

24. (New) The actuator of claim 23, wherein at least one of said lever bearing surface and said stationary bearing surface comprises a roller.

25. (New) The actuator of claim 23, wherein said lever is biased toward one of said first position and second position.

26. (New) The actuator of claim 25, wherein said lever is biased toward said first position by a torsion spring.

27. (New) The actuator of claim 23, wherein said plunger is biased toward one of said extended position and said retracted position when said solenoid is in an un-energized state.

28. (New) The actuator of claim 23, further comprising a mechanical switch that is closed when said lever is in one of said first position and said second position.

29. (New) The actuator of claim 23, wherein said plunger comprises a wedge-shaped portion.